

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has allowed claims 51-68. These claims are re-presented herein.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 70-72 would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 70 and 71 have been rewritten in independent form as indicated by the Examiner, and are believed to be allowable. Claim 72 depends from claim 71 and is therefore also believed to be allowable.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection – Shirasaki

The Examiner has rejected claims 78 and 80 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,593,034 issued to Shirasaki (hereinafter "Shirasaki").

The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 78 and 80 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection is believed to be moot.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection – Shirasaki

The Examiner has rejected claims 69, 74-76 and 79 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shirasaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,380,518 issued to Shirakawa (hereinafter "Shirakawa").

Claim 69 has been cancelled. Claims 74, 76, and 79 have been amended to depend on claim 71, which as discussed above is believed to be allowable. Claim 75 depends on claim 74 and is

also believed to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection – Shirasaki

The Examiner has rejected claims 73 and 77 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shirasaki in view of Shirakawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,507,390 issued to Ivaldi.

Claims 73 and 77 have been amended to depend on claim 71, which as discussed above is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the cited art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 3/27/07

By

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